

SITE INVENTORY FORM

Site No. 1009==

Site Name (Address) 3939 Hardie Road 905==

Other Names for Site 930==

Other Nos. for Site 906==

City & Zip Code Miami, Florida 33133 813==

Location J.W. Ewans Sub 1-51 /
subdivision name/E 15 ft. Lot 33 and all Lot 34 868==
block no. lot no.

County Dade 808== Survey Date 7901 820==

Owner of Site: Name: Milton MacKaye and wife Dorothy ;

Address: Norton Town Road 902==

Madison, Connecticut -6443 902==

Occupant, Tenant, or Manager: Name: 904==

Type of Ownership:

☒ Private 848==☐ Corporate 848==☐ Municipal 848==☐ 848==

Remarks:

Threats to Site:

☐ Zoning () 878==☐ Development () 878==☐ Deterioration () 878==☐ Transportation () 878==☐ Other (See Remarks): 878==

Condition of Site:

☐ Excellent 863==☒ Good 863==☐ Fair 863==☐ Deteriorated 863==

Integrity of Site:

☒ Altered 858==☐ Unaltered 858==☐ Original Site 858==☐ Restored () Date: 858==☒ Moved () Date: 858==☐ Destroyed () Date: 858==

Remarks:

Reporter (or local contact):

Name: Rodriguez, Ivan A. (Dade County Historic Survey) ;

Address: Dade County Park and Recreation Department

50 S.W. 32 Road; Miami, Florida 33129 816==

Name of Project: Dade County Historic Survey 980==

Recorder:

Name & Title: Monroe, Elizabeth B. (HSS) ;

Address: FDAHRM 818==

Previous Survey(s): enter activity/title of survey/name/date/repository)

839==

UTM Coordinates

17 574600 2843920 890==

Zone Easting Northing

Photographic Record Numbers 78N113HPS(Frames 26 and 27) 860==

Significance:

This frame construction residence represents a fine, unusual example of frame vernacular architecture in Dade County at the turn of the century. It is architecturally noteworthy for its arched details, use of materials, and size. The building has been partially altered.

It was built in 1901. The original owner was the Biscayne Yacht Club, whose Commodore was Ralph Middleton Munroe.

The Biscayne Bay Yacht Club is considered to be Dade County's oldest social institution and the second oldest yacht club in the south. As a result of a regatta held in 1887 at Biscayne Bay to celebrate Washington's birthday, the Club was organized. Ralph Middleton Munroe became its Commodore until 1909, and Kirk Munroe served as its Secretary until 1922. R.M. Munroe, a New Yorker, became a permanent resident of Coconut Grove in 1886 when he purchased 42 acres of original Besley homestead from John W. Frow. A year later, he built a two story boathouse, the first home in the Grove to be built on the waterfront. In 1891, he constructed the Barnacle, 911==

SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

Bibliography:

UNPUBLISHED:

Parks, Arva. "The History of Coconut Grove, Florida, 1821-1925," Miami, Florida.

Unpublished MA thesis, University of Miami, June, 1971.

Parks, Arva Moore. Telephone interview (by Nancy Hoffman), Miami, Florida, April 23, 1979.

MacIntyre, Dolly. "History of Coconut Grove," Dade County Historical Survey, ca 1970's.

PUBLISHED:

Munroe, Ralph M. and Gilpin, Vincent. The Commodore's Story. Norbeth, Pennsylvania:

Livingston Company, reprinted from 1931 edition, 1966.

"R.M. Munroe, Widely Known Pioneer Dies," The Miami Herald, August 21, 1933.

Parks, Arva. "Yesterday: Coconut Grove U.S.A. Centennial 1873-1973," Coconut Grove Chamber of Commerce, 1974.

Liss, Robert. "Coconut Grove: 105-year Effort to Preserve an Idea," The Miami Herald, March 11, 1978. 920==

Original Use:

- ☐ Private Residence 838==
☐ Apartment Building 838==
☐ Hotel 838==
☐ Commercial 838==
☒ Other: Yacht Club 838==

Present Use:

- ☒ Private Residence 850==
☐ Apartment Building 850==
☐ Hotel 850==
☐ Commercial 850==
 Other: 850==

Culture/Phase American 840==

Specific Dates: +1901 844==

Areas of Significance:

- ☒ Architecture 910==
☐ Commerce 910==
☒ Exploration & Settlement 910==
☒ Social/Humanitarian 910==
☐ Other: 910==
 910==

Period:

- ☒ 20th Century 845==
☐ 19th Century 845==

N.R. Classification Category: Building 916==

CONTINUATION SHEET

Statement of Significance

911==

which is today located at 3485 Main Highway. That same year, Munroe and associates organized the Biscayne Manufacturing Company which canned pineapples grown from the Keys. In 1903, he started Camp Biscayne, a co-operative kitchen, which by 1905 had grown to four cottages housing winter visitors. This property which was across from the present site of the Grove Playhouse was sold in 1920 and the boulevard from Main Highway to Bayshore Drive was built in its place. In 1909 Munroe helped establish St. Stephen's Episcopal Church. In short, R.M. Munroe, who died in 1933 at the age of 82, was instrumental in the growth and development of the Grove. Kirk Monroe, a writer of children's books, came to Coconut Grove in 1887 with his wife, Mary Barr Munroe, and bought property next door to the present site of Ransom School (3575 Main Highway). He was very active in educational and social circles. He aided Paul Ransom in the founding of the Florida Adirondack School, which today is the upper school campus of Ransom Everglades School, and in 1896 he was influential in organizing "A Colored Literary Society."

The Biscayne Bay Yacht Club's first headquarters was in the second floor of the Monroe boathouse. In the late 1800's it was through the efforts of the Club's members that the Cape Florida Lighthouse was preserved. In 1901, the Biscayne Bay Yacht Club constructed its first clubhouse south of what is today the Barnacle (3485 Main Highway). The Club served as a center of social activities in the Coconut Grove area from 1906 to 1926. This two-story frame building was bought by Bob Erwin, a local contractor, for one dollar in 1925. He barged the building to its present site at 3939 Hardie Road, where it now is used as a private residence. In 1932, the present clubhouse at 2540 South Bayshore Drive was built, primarily through the efforts of its Commodore Hugh Matheson, Sr.

911==